

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 214

Washington, D. C.

June 25, 1927

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Canned foods week to be held in Spring	621	Organization of new Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration	625
Miss Atwater to direct Bureau of Home Economics	621	Vise fee on Mexican consular invoices	624
Conference Committee meeting	622	British imports of American canned fruits	626
Tin not absorbed by body	624	British Malaya pineapple exports	626
Procedure in Federal Trade Commission cases modified	624	Duty on kippered herring	627
New membership list issued	625	Pamphlet mailed to members	627
Tomato prices in British Columbia	625	Labeling peas under Wisconsin regulations	627
		Ninth week of million-car loadings	627

Canned Foods Week to be Held in Spring

At a meeting of the Canned Foods Week Committee in Omaha, on June 21, it was decided to postpone the next Canned Foods Week until the Spring of 1928. The date was not fixed, but will be determined after conference with the associations cooperating in the event, including distributors, canners, and machinery and supply firms.

The value of Canned Foods Week to both canner and distributor was repeatedly brought out in the discussions of the Committee. Besides the shift from a Fall to a Spring date, changes were discussed as to the method of handling the event that will give it still greater value in educating the consumer and in stimulating sales.

Miss Atwater to Direct Bureau of Home Economics

Miss Ruth Atwater, who for the last four years has had charge of the foods courses at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, serving during the last year as Director of the Home Economics Department of that institution, has been chosen to direct the Bureau of Home Economics of the National Canners Association. Miss Atwater was one of a number of persons considered for the position, and brings to it an exceptional academic training and a broad experience in foods and home economics work.

Miss Atwater received her early training at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Later she took her Bachelor of Science and her Master of Arts degrees in Teachers College of Columbia University. She has taught foods work in both public and high schools

and previous to teaching at Skidmore College administered and taught part of the foods work in the Teachers Training Course at Pratt Institute. For four years she also taught food preparation, meal planning and table service in the summer sessions of the University of Chicago.

Besides her teaching, Miss Atwater has been a frequent contributor to women's magazines and has done a considerable amount of public speaking. As Vice President of the New York State Home Economics Association, she is thoroughly familiar with organized work in the home economics field, and in connection with her position at Skidmore has frequently spoken on various home economics subjects, including general and infant nutrition, and the place of foods and home economics work in high school and college curricula.

The position which Miss Atwater has accepted was created by a resolution of the Board of Directors about four years ago, and since that time considerable effort has been made to fill this exceedingly important position. It is felt that Miss Atwater is particularly well qualified.

It has been recognized that without this bureau it is impossible to acquaint the domestic science schools, nutrition schools and other institutions of learning which are specializing on the subject of human diet, with the work of the National Canners Association.

The Association's Research Laboratories, as well as the laboratories of the several universities which have received grants for the purpose of making special studies of food problems, can, through the bureau which Miss Atwater will direct, carry this message to the thousands and thousands of teachers of domestic science and home economics in this country.

Miss Atwater will first familiarize herself thoroughly with the canning industry and its products, and during the present summer will visit a number of canning plants for this purpose.

Conference Committee Meeting

At a meeting of the Conference Committees of the National Canners Association and the National Wholesale Grocers Association held in Omaha on June 21, action was taken with reference to the swell allowance on tomato puree and hominy, the definition of abnormal swells, collection of statistics on stocks, and other matters of interest to the canning industry.

Mr. Royal F. Clark was elected chairman of the meeting, and read the minutes of the meeting held in Atlantic City, Jan-

uary 25. These minutes showed that three subjects—swell allowances on tomato puree and hominy, the collection of periodical statistics on stocks of canned foods in canners' and distributors' hands, and "abnormal swells"—had been referred from the Atlantic City meeting to the Omaha meeting.

The first subject taken up was that of swell allowances on tomato puree and hominy, and after discussion a motion was unanimously adopted that the Conference Committee recommend that the standard swell allowance on hominy and on tomato puree be one-fourth of 1 per cent.

On the subject of abnormal swells, the Committee, after discussion, unanimously adopted a motion recommending that abnormal swells be defined as being more than double the amount allowed on a percentage basis on contract and that the allowance for abnormal swells be construed to apply against each unit shipment and not against the entire contract.

On the subject of statistics of stocks, Mr. Clark presented a summary of the questionnaire sent out by the National Canners Association asking canners of corn, peas and tomatoes to express their approval or disapproval of the plan to have these statistics collected by the Department of Commerce from both canners and distributors. The number of firms replying and not replying, the combined corn, pea and tomato pack of these firms, and the percentage their pack forms of the total pack in 1926 are as follows:

	Number of firms	Combined pack	Percentage of total pack
		<i>Cases</i>	<i>Cases</i>
Approving plan	619	29,958,720	64.80
Disapproving plan	80	4,368,490	9.45
Not replying	1,346	11,905,790	25.75
Total	2,045	46,233,000	100.00

Mr. A. P. Williams reported the results of a questionnaire sent to members of the National Wholesale Grocers Association, showing that 356 out of 701 to whom it was sent had supplied statistics. He stated there was no exact way to estimate what proportion these replies represented of the business of the 6,300 wholesale grocers of the country. His personal estimate was that they represented over half. Following discussion, a motion was unanimously adopted that the Committee recommend that statistics be collected semi-annually through the Department of Commerce on stocks of canned corn, peas, and tomatoes in the hands of distributors and canners.

On the subject of increased label allowance the Committee decided to take no action.

Mr. Williams presented complaints received as to poor labeling and careless stenciling of sizes on the outside of cases, and asked that a bulletin be sent to canners on this subject, which was agreed to.

Mr. J. W. Herscher presented to the Committee a resolution approving simplification of containers and the adoption of uniform nomenclature, which was adopted.

A communication was read from the Missouri Retail Merchants Association requesting a change in labels so as to leave a space in which could be written the price per case, per dozen, etc. A motion was adopted to defer action on this request until it had been passed upon by the National Association of Retail Grocers.

Tin Not Absorbed by Body

That tin, the metal with which most metallic food containers are lined, has absolutely no effect on the human body is the finding of Drs. E. W. Schwartz and W. F. Clarke, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, reported in "Science" for May 27. Selecting asparagus and pumpkins as two kinds of preserved food which might be expected to enter into chemical union with the tin lining of the cans in which they had been preserved for long periods, they have been unable to demonstrate the slightest unfavorable effects of the vegetables when they were fed to guinea pigs. Further, they administered tin metal in two-gram lots, more than all the tin on several large cans, to human beings over a period of five days. By the most refined analytical methods they could find no trace of tin in the blood stream, indicating that none had been absorbed by the body. It is also proposed to determine the effect on steel cans lined with enamel instead of with a tin coating.

Procedure in Federal Trade Commission Cases Modified

Effective June 15th, the Federal Trade Commission changes its policy in regard to complaints of unfair business practice. Hereafter, before the Commission's Board of Review recommends to the Commission that a formal complaint be issued against any business concern, it shall grant that concern an informal hearing to show cause why a complaint should not be issued. Three weeks notice of the hearing is required. However, the Board of Review is not required to grant such a hearing in cases where a majority of the Board considers that unnecessary or inadvisable.

New Membership List Issued

A revised list of the membership of the National Canners Association has been issued and copies are being mailed to all members. The Food Brokers Association has also requested a supply of copies for distribution to their members. If any canner does not receive a copy of this list promptly or desires additional copies, the Association will be glad to supply them.

Tomato Prices in British Columbia

The American Commercial Attache at Ottawa, Canada, reports to the Department of Commerce that tomato canners in British Columbia have agreed to pay growers 41 1/4 cents per bushel for Earliana, and 46 1/4 cents per bushel for the John Baar varieties this season. Although these prices are the same as paid last year, the growers are not permitted to pick semi-ripe tomatoes from their entire acreage until the market price reaches 75 cents per bushel. About 1,500 acres will probably be planted this season.

Organization of New Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration

The organization and the responsible personnel of the new Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration which, in accordance with legislation of the last Congress, becomes an organic unit of the Department of Agriculture on July 1, has been announced by W. G. Campbell, Director of Regulatory Work of the Department.

Director Campbell will direct the work of the new Administration. Dr. P. B. Dunbar, now in charge of the work of enforcing the Food and Drugs Act, will be Assistant Chief in the Administration, directly responsible to Director Campbell.

The Washington staff of the Administration will be organized into supervisory, administrative offices and technical control laboratories. C. W. Crawford will be in charge of the Office of Interstate Food and Drug Supervision, handling all questions arising in connection with the application of the Food and Drugs Act to interstate traffic. The Office of Import Food and Drug Supervision will be under the direction of Dr. A. E. Taylor. W. S. Frisbee will head the Office of State and City Cooperation, handling all questions arising in connection with cooperative relations with state and city officials.

Dr. R. W. Balcom will have charge of the Food Control Laboratories, which will be enlarged by brigading the present food control organization, the water and beverage laboratory,

the cattle food laboratory, and the personnel of the microbiology and microchemical laboratories which come under the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration.

The field forces will be organized with three inspection divisions—Eastern, Central and Western—as at present, each district territory being further divided into station territories. The plan contemplates that all inspectors shall qualify themselves to carry out all inspection work called for by the various laws assigned to the Administration. The Eastern and Western food and drug inspection districts will continue in charge, respectively, of W. R. M. Wharton and Wendell Vincent. The central district will be in charge of E. H. Goodnow as acting chief.

Vise Fee on Mexican Consular Invoices

A Mexican decree, effective June 1, provides for the collection of a uniform fee of 10 per cent ad valorem for the vise of consular invoices on all goods shipped to Mexico, whether dutiable or free, according to a report to the U. S. Department of Commerce. This supersedes the decree promulgated April 4 which increased the consular vise fee from 5 to 10 per cent ad valorem on dutiable goods, but left the rate at 5 per cent for duty-free goods.

British Imports of American Canned Fruits

According to a cable from American Commercial Attache Cooper at London, British imports of canned fruits from the United States approximated one and one-half million cases during the first five months of 1927; or about one-third million cases over the amount imported during the same period of 1926, and one-half million cases over 1925. Although consumption is heavy, prices are low.

British Malaya Pineapple Exports

Exports of canned pineapple from British Malaya during January and February amounted to 4,741 tons valued at \$1,001,837 as compared with 7,812 tons valued at \$1,423,295 in January and February, 1926. The bulk of these exports went to the United Kingdom. The reduction in value (29 per cent) is much less than the reduction in quantity (39 per cent). The only country to which increased imports were shipped was the United States, but the total exports to this country for the two months amounted to only 123 tons valued at \$19,453.

Duty on Kippered Herring

In a decision by the United States Customs Court on the tariff classification of kippered herring, imported in tins weighing less than 15 pounds each, it is held that the herring was correctly assessed for duty at 25 per cent ad valorem under paragraph 720, Act of 1922. Importers contended for duty at 2½ cents per pound under paragraph 718 as smoked herring, skinned or boned.

Pamphlet Mailed to Members

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed a pamphlet containing the addresses delivered at the meeting of the Board of Directors on May 26 by President Harry L. Cannon and by Judge J. Harry Covington, Counsel of the National Canners Association, on "The Canning Industry Today and Tomorrow." Any member failing to receive the pamphlet is requested to notify the Association's office at Washington.

Labeling Peas Under Wisconsin Regulations

The Wisconsin Department of Markets, in reply to an inquiry with regard to the manner in which peas passing through a screen having a mesh 21/64 inch should be labeled so as to comply with the Wisconsin regulations, has written the Association:

"You ask whether it would be satisfactory if such peas are labeled 'Size 2½.' You have the assurance of this Department that such a marking will be satisfactory. It will be noted that the order (General Order 11-R) does not provide for a size 21/64 inch. However, marking such size as suggested will be entirely within the spirit of the order."

Ninth Week of Million-Car Loadings

For the ninth week this year loadings of revenue freight exceeded the million mark for the week ended on June 11. The total for the week was 1,028,305 cars, an increase of 117,007 cars over the preceding week, but a decrease of 24,166 cars compared with the corresponding week last year.

